

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1, 8-10, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1, 8-10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Findlay (US 6,262,718).

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Response:

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to overcome these claim rejections.

Claim 1 now contains the limitations previously recited in claim 2, and claim 10 now contains the limitations previously recited in claim 11. Claims 2 and 11 were each indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, the currently amended claims 1 and 10 should now be in allowable form.

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Reconsideration of claims 1, 8-10, 12, and 13 is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Findlay (US 6,262,718) in view of West (US 5,831,597).

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Response:

Claim 5 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowable. Reconsideration of claim 5 is therefore respectfully requested.

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3. Rejection of claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Findlay (US 6,262,718) in view of Tajiri (US 4,752,655).

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Response:

Claims 6 and 7 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowable. Reconsideration of claims 6 and 7 is therefore respectfully requested.

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Appl. No. 10/708,868
Amdt. dated June 6, 2007
Reply to Office action of April 04, 2007

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,

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